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Mayor and Council to Hold First Budget Hearing and Discuss Rescue Plan Funding

Community members can present their needs early in the Fiscal Year 2023 city budget process as the Mayor and Council hold their first budget hearing Monday, Oct. 25.

The hearing will follow a Monday, Oct. 4 discussion of how to allocate \$9.6 million the city received through the federal American Rescue Plan Act, which aids state and local governments in recovering from the budgetary, economic, and financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff will present eligible spending categories and discuss potential ideas with the Mayor and Council. A public hearing on how to allocate the funds will also be held Oct. 25.

Both Mayor and Council meetings are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

To testify at the public hearings, call 240-314-8280 by 10 a.m. Oct. 25, or submit testimony in writing to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov or Mayor and Council, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Find more information in the staff report when the agenda is posted several days before the Oct. 25 meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

The Mayor and Council discussed water and sewer rates during their Sept. 27 meeting.

INITIAL BUDGET PROCESS

- **Monday, Oct. 4:** American Rescue Plan Act discussion.
- **Monday, Oct. 25:** Public hearings on the ARPA and on Fiscal Year 2023 budget priorities, and a discussion of FY 2023 budget surveys and the budget calendar.
- **Monday, Dec. 13:** Discussion of Mayor and Council survey results and priority setting.
- Additional public hearings and work sessions will be held in 2022. The Mayor and Council are scheduled to adopt the budget in May.

Video of that discussion is available with the Sept. 27 meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Water and sewer rates will remain the same through the current calendar year. ARPA funds can be used to provide rate relief to water and sewer customers in coming years.

The \$141.2 million budget for Fiscal Year 2022, which began July 1, keeps the city's real property tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation the same. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

COVID-19: Delta Variant Risks Lead to Special Event Cancellations

City Urges Community to Get Vaccinated

Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito announced the cancellation of the city's two highly attended October special events, citing public health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In the interest of better assuring the health and safety of our residents, visitors and city employees in the face of the extremely concerning recent trends with this COVID-19 pandemic, as city manager I am today canceling both of the city's high-attendance public events scheduled for this fall: Rocktoberfest and the annual Antique and Classic Car Show," DiSpirito said in a message to the Mayor and Council.

DiSpirito made the decision after consulting with the Mayor and Council and city staff. As part of the city's ongoing efforts to keep the community safe and slow the spread of COVID-19, staff recommended canceling the events. The city also considered recent decisions by other local jurisdictions. The City of Gaithersburg canceled their Oktoberfest and organizers canceled Taste of Bethesda. Both events were planned for October and large

crowds were expected.

"I am not taking this step lightly, as none of us wish to disappoint the public," DiSpirito said. "If more people were vaccinated, we would not be in this position now. Given the pandemic metrics of late, particularly with the delta variant running as it is, this is the responsible and necessary step to take for public and employee safety, our highest shared obligation."

The City of Rockville encourages people to get vaccinated. For information about COVID-19 vaccinations in Montgomery County, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine.

The annual Rocktoberfest, which was scheduled for Oct. 2, attracts more than 8,000 people to Rockville Town Center. One of Rockville's oldest traditions, the Antique and Classic Car Show, which was slated for Saturday, Oct. 16, brings about 12,000 attendees and vehicles from 32 car clubs to Rockville Civic Center Park.

For more information about Rockville's special events, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/events. ✚

Tricks for Making Halloween a Treat

Trick-or-treaters take to Rockville neighborhoods Sunday, Oct. 31.

There are no set hours for trick-or-treating. The Rockville City Police Department urges drivers to be aware of extra pedestrians in neighborhoods. Homeowners should clear yards and sidewalks of obstacles, keep homes well-lit inside and out, and report any suspicious activity to police. City police offer these additional tips:

- Kids should walk in groups and young children should be accompanied by an adult.
- Set a safe walking route and a time for children to be home.
- Costumes should be flame retardant and short enough to prevent trips and falls.
- Carry flashlights or glow sticks and affix reflective strips to costumes and bags.
- Remind children not to eat treats until they get home. Check all treats and throw out anything that is not factory-sealed.

Find details of Halloween events on page 6. Check the city calendar for the most up-to-date information: www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx. ✚



UNFORGOTTEN: ART EXHIBITION SHOWS PAINFUL PRICE OF OPIOIDS ... Suzanne Firstenberg's "Unforgotten" art exhibition was installed outside Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., throughout September to mark National Recovery Month and Rockville Goes Purple.



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Help Rockville Celebrate the Arts and Humanities in October

The City of Rockville's Recreation and Parks Department will help celebrate National Arts and Humanities Month in October.

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to issue a proclamation for the month at their Monday, Oct. 4 meeting.

National Arts and Humanities Month is a coast-to-coast collective recognition of the importance of culture in America. A celebration of the month was launched by Americans for the Arts more than 30 years ago as National Arts Week, in honor of the 20th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts. In 1993, it was re-established by Americans for the Arts and national arts partners as a monthlong celebration.

To help celebrate, you can visit one or more of the city's public works of art — see the map of public art installations at www.rockvillemd.gov/AIPP — or enjoy the shows and performances listed on page 6!

If you're a member of the city's arts community, join the Cultural Arts Commission at their listening session, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13. See the article on page 6 for information.



New Rockville Rewards Cards Are Here

Unlock more than discounts from Rockville-area businesses, from dining to events and services. Get one at rockvillerewards.com.

One-hundred percent of website sales proceeds are donated to nonprofits that call Rockville home. Show small businesses how much they mean to our community while supporting the nonprofits that support Rockville.



SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY NEWS!
www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters



Rockville Holiday Drive Readies for 2021 Launch

Donations are being accepted for the 2021 Holiday Drive, Rockville's annual push to help the community's hundreds of children and families in need.

This year, with the need greater than ever, the drive will continue, albeit with minor changes to keep everyone healthy and safe.

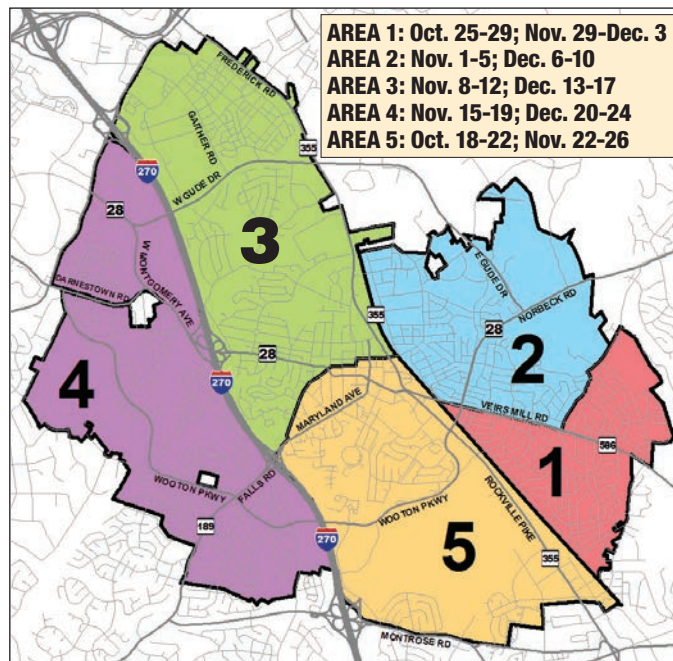
Normally, the Holiday Drive collects food donations in November for Thanksgiving, and toys in December for the gift-giving holiday season. This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the city is requesting monetary, gift card and book donations only. Donations are tax deductible.

Giant grocery store cards will be bought in November so recipients can shop for Thanksgiving; in December, your donations will help purchase Target gift cards and books for the holiday.

Here's how you can help:

- **Go Online:** Easily donate online at bit.ly/HolidayDriveDonate.
- **Write a Check:** Checks can be made payable to "City of Rockville" (with "Rockville Holiday Drive" in the memo line) and sent to Rockville Holiday Drive Fund, c/o Community Services Division, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Collect Books for Gifts:** Organize a drive of new or gently used book for kids up to age 17.
- **Buy a Gift Card:** Donate \$20 gift cards from Target or Giant.
- **Donations can be dropped off** at City Hall, by appointment only, by calling 240-314-8310, or at the city's three community centers.

For more information, contact Frederika Granger at fgranger@rockvillemd.gov.



See interactive map at www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection.

Leave It to the City's Leaf Collection City Collects Leaves October to Mid-December

Rockville will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs in two rounds, beginning Monday, Oct. 18.

Rake leaves next to, but out of, roadways, gutters and bike lanes, and away from parked vehicles. Leaves should be raked by 6 a.m. on the first day of

their collection period, but no earlier than one week before the collection dates to avoid grass damage or fire hazards. Remove sticks and other objects from leaf piles. Avoid parking near leaf piles or other vehicles.



Fall Into the Season with Boosted Food Benefits at the Farmers Market

The City of Rockville and Rockville Farmers Market is doubling its dollar-for-dollar match for customers using their federal nutrition benefits at the city's weekly market.

Customers can now receive a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$20 weekly when they shop with SNAP/EBT (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/ Electronic Benefits Transfer),

P-EBT (Pandemic EBT) and WIC-FVC (Women, Infants and Children-Fruit and Vegetable Checks) at the market. Matching funds can be used to purchase locally grown and produced items including fruits, vegetables, meat, cheese, dairy, baked goods, eggs and honey. The Eat Fresh Rockville and Maryland Market Money *continued on pg. 7...*

Rockville's Hispanic/Latino Population Grew Over Decade

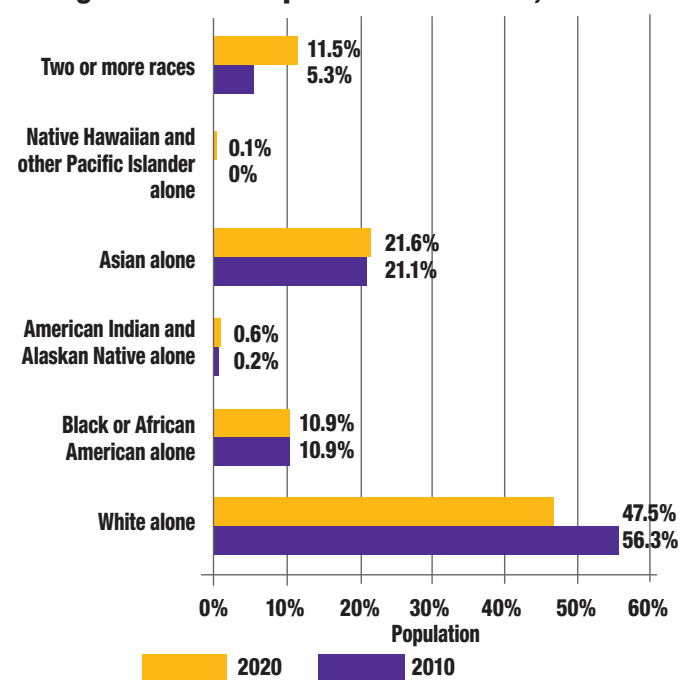
Rockville's Hispanic/Latino population increased by 2,533 people in the decade since the last census, from 14.3% of the city's population in 2010 to 16.9% in 2020.

Those identifying as Hispanic/Latino can be of any race.

In 2010, 8,781 people of Rockville's population of 61,209 identified as Hispanic/Latino. In 2020, 11,334 people chose that category out of Rockville's 67,117 inhabitants, according to the latest census data.

Hispanic/Latino is considered to be an ethnicity by the Census Bureau. Those identifying as Hispanic/Latino can be of any race and are included in each category in the chart at right.

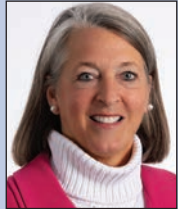
Change in Racial Composition in Rockville, 2010-2020



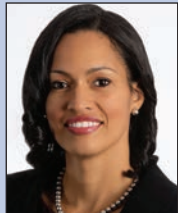
WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING? ... Are you Czech, Polish or Italian American? This is the month to celebrate your culture and heritage. October is also National Bullying Prevention Month, LGBT History Month, National Crime Prevention Month and Blindness Awareness Month, as well as Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs to mid-October.

Mayor & Council

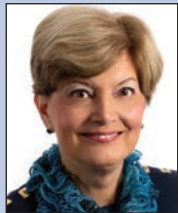
mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton
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bnewton@rockvillemd.gov



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Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg
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bfeinberg@rockvillemd.gov



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dmyles@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Mark Pierzchala
240-314-8292
mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov

VIRTUAL MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD ONLINE. Meetings are closed to in-person attendance and are livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.

Meetings Schedule: Mondays, Oct. 4, 11 and 25 at 7 p.m., with a work session at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 18. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details.

The Oct. 11 meeting will be preceded by a drop-in session by telephone with Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Councilmember Monique Ashton from 5:30-6:30 p.m. To participate, sign up by 10 a.m. the day of the drop-in at www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Clerk-11/Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227. If you wish to submit comments in writing for community forum or public hearings, please email mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov by 10 a.m. on the day of. Share comments live during community forum. Sign up by calling the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations at 240-314-8280 by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting. All comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and Council at the meeting and added to the agenda for public viewing on the website. To practice responsible social distancing, Mayor and Council meetings will be conducted by teleconference and broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11, and available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

Public Hearings to be Held on Two Potential City Developments

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to hold two virtual public hearings on development applications in the city during coming meetings.

On Monday, Oct. 18, the Mayor and Council will invite comments on an application to transform 16160/16200 Frederick Road, the King Buick auto dealership, to allow for up to 370 dwelling units, walking paths, and open and park space, on the 20.35-acre site.

A 10.3-acre section of the site that sits in Montgomery County is under consideration by the Mayor and Council for annexation into the city.

On Monday, Nov. 1, the Mayor and Council are scheduled to hold a public hearing on a request to allow a 350-unit

multifamily residential building, instead of office development, on an undeveloped property at 1800 Research Blvd., at Falls Grove.

Both Mayor and Council meetings are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

To testify at the Mayor and Council's public hearings, call 240-314-8280 by 10 a.m. the day of the hearing or submit testimony in writing to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov or Mayor and Council, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

More information will be available in the staff report accompanying each agenda, which will be posted nearer the meeting time at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. ❖



SPORTING PURPLE FOR THE CAUSE ... Rockville's staff and elected officials have been wearing purple to highlight National Recovery Month. Above: members of the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations office. Go to [youtube.com/cityofrockville](https://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville) for the latest videos from Rockville 11 featuring the Rockville Goes Purple campaign.



A NEW DISTRICT TO EXPLORE ... Officials and Rockville's elected leaders cut the ribbon at the opening to a new destination in the city — the Rock East District, which gathers Rockville's artists, professionals, makers and tradespeople together into a defined geographic location.

The district, which runs along East Gude Drive between Frederick and Norbeck roads, includes more than 60 area businesses, or "makers and traders," as well as parks and trails. Businesses represented in the new district include breweries, a distillery, restaurants, trails, sports, retail, auto repair and home improvement.

The Rock East District, also known as "RED," was initiated by Rockville Economic Development, Inc. in response to a desire to highlight Rockville's commercial neighborhoods. The Mayor and Council formally recognized the new district at their Monday, July 19 meeting.

Mayor and Council to Review Rockville's Climate Action Plan

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to review Rockville's first draft Climate Action Plan during their meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6.

With the Climate Action Plan, city government is working with community members to develop a comprehensive list of actions to equitably reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and build community resiliency.

Over the past year, the city's Environmental Management Division held virtual public meetings and online office hours and conducted surveys to solicit community input on the plan. A virtual open house was held in the summer to get feedback from the community on the draft plan goals, a pathway to greenhouse gas reduction and a draft list of 41 actions. After a year of community engagement, the city received robust feedback from more than 575 respondents. Find full results of community feedback and view a draft list of actions at www.rockvillemd.gov/climate.

Sign up for the Environment and Sustainability News email newsletter at www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters to receive regular updates about environmental news and tips for living greener, including Climate Action Plan news and events. ❖

Rockville to Salute Residents' Service at Veterans Day Ceremony

Rockville will honor veterans of our nation's armed forces with a ceremony on Veterans Day, Thursday, Nov. 11.

The ceremony is planned for Veterans Park, at the intersection of MD 28 and Rockville Pike. Free parking will be available at Sandy Spring Bank, 611 Rockville Pike.

The ceremony, which is open to the public, will include a wreath laying and a military salute by the American Legion Post 86 Honor Guard. A reception will follow at American Legion Post 86, at 2013 Veirs Mill Road.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/veterans day, email specialevents@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8620. ❖

Get Involved with the City

- **Send an email** to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the Mayor and Council, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Find ways to give of your time and talents at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

While some meetings are canceled, other boards and commissions meetings will take place virtually. See times and dates, and ways to participate on city's online calendar: www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx.

- **Oct. 13 and 27 Planning Commission** 7 p.m. (Meetings will be held by teleconference. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details closer to the meeting dates.)

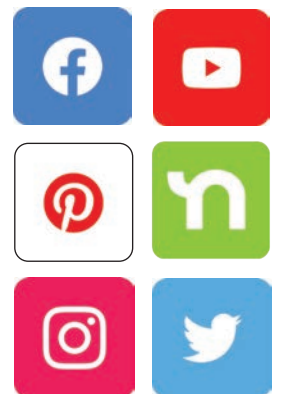
Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Human Services Advisory Commission (1)
- Ethics Commission (2)
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission (1)
- Recreation and Park Advisory Board (1)
- Rockville Housing Enterprises (1)

For more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions or call 240-314-8280.

Connect with us on Social Media.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS: Main: 240-314-5000

Police Non-emergency: 240-314-8900

24-Hour Utility Emergency Report Hotline: 240-314-8567



STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

► SPEAK UP ◀

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

Call 1-866-921-6714

Email rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca
Visit www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd
For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse.

Safety While Banking: Crime Prevention Tips

Anyone can become a victim of a crime of opportunity. The Rockville City Police Department offers these tips to protect you from crime while banking:

- Many criminals know exactly when government checks arrive each month and may pick that day to attack. Avoid this by using direct deposit, which sends your money directly from the government to the bank of your choice. And, at many banks, free checking accounts are available to senior citizens. Your bank has all the information.
- Never withdraw money from your bank accounts for anyone except yourself. Be wary of con artists and get-rich schemes. When someone approaches you with a get-rich-quick scheme involving your savings, it is their get-rich-quick scheme. If it is a legitimate investment, the opportunity to contribute your funds will still be there tomorrow – after you have had time to consider it.
- Store valuables in a safe deposit box.
- Never give your money to someone who calls on you and says they are a bank official. A bank will never ask you to remove money. Banks need the use of your money, and they don't want one of their customers to invite crime by having large amounts of cash around.

Remember that crime prevention is everyone's responsibility. Share these tips with your neighbors and friends, to make it tough for criminals to work in your neighborhood.

Find more crime and safety tips with the Rockville City Police Department's weekly crime reports at www.rockvillemd.gov/271/Weekly-Crime-Reports.

Take Action for Energy Efficiency in October

Celebrate Energy Action Month in October and Energy Efficiency Day on Wednesday, Oct. 6 by doing your part to tackle climate change.

Learn more about Energy Efficiency Day at energyefficiencyday.org. And try these ideas during Energy Action Month to get involved and reduce energy usage while saving money:

Visit the Montgomery Energy Connection

Find actions, resources, activities and events for all ages to help lower utility bills, keep money in your pocket, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Visit montgomeryenergyconnection.org.

Get an Energy Audit

A home energy audit, or assessment, can help you understand the whole picture of your home's energy use and save you money. Visit homeenergysavings.pepco.com/residential/energy-assessments to get started.

Switch to Green Power

In Maryland, switching to clean energy for your home is as easy as flipping a switch. You can power your home with wind or solar without any special equipment by choosing a green energy supplier at mdelectricchoice.com.



Take a Coffee Break with the Rockville City Police Department

Get to know the men and women who protect and serve our city.

The Rockville City Police Department invites community members for National Coffee with a Cop Day from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6 at Starbucks in the Falls Grove Village Center, 14941 Shady Grove Road. Face coverings must be worn upon entry.

Chief Victor Brito, RCPD commanders and officers will be on hand for informal one-on-one real conversations with community members.

Coffee with a Cop helps

to break down barriers between police officers and the community they serve in a causal atmosphere where residents can sit with officers, ask questions and share what's on their mind.

As part of its community policing mission, the RCPD strives to get to know community members, build trust and discover mutual goals with the Rockville community the department serves.

Learn more about the RCPD and its mission at www.rockvillemd.gov/police.



Flooding: Know the Risks and City Resources

The city is reminding residents about flooding risks after parts of Rockville experienced devastating flooding from the remnants of Hurricane Ida, which blew through the city as a tropical depression on Sept. 1.

Forecasters predict that these extreme weather events will happen more frequently as the climate continues to change.

Standard homeowners insurance does not usually cover flood damage. Homeowners with homes in a flood-prone area should consider purchasing flood insurance. For more information, visit fema.gov/flood-insurance.

Residents may be eligible for a reimbursement from the city of up to \$2,500 toward the costs of repairing property damage caused by Ida. To be eligible, the property must be within the City of Rockville corporate limits. Claims

must be for the documented costs of repairs and cleanup immediately following the storm such as dewatering, pump-out, or dry-out efforts, and removal and disposal of damaged property and building materials. Claims must be submitted by Monday, Jan. 3.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/flooding for more information about reimbursement claims and for resources to help residents better understand flooding risks and prepare for flash flooding events.

The webpage also includes a damage assessment survey that residents can fill out and submit to help Rockville gather information about flooding and flood damage from Ida. The survey will feed information directly to a flood mitigation planning tool and will inform the city's evaluation of future flood mitigation options.



HONORING ROCKVILLE'S FIRST RESPONDERS ... The 32nd annual Public Safety Awards on Sept. 8 honored members of the Rockville City Police Department, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, and the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department. The program was presented by the City of Rockville, Rockville Chamber of Commerce and city service organizations. Rockville police officers honored (in the first photo; left to right, back row) are Steve Brewer, Jeff Park, Jason West, Karl Plitt, Chris Sadelson, David Trogolo, Justin Pieck and Nick Roy; and (left to right, front row) Joe Fetter, Javier Baquero and Derrick Tibbs. Civilian employees recognized (left to right, second photo) were Karl Nadler, Keschia Paul, Alice Frishkorn and Max Crago.



Looking for Funds to Help with Energy Efficiency?

Homeowners in Rockville could be eligible for up to \$10,000.

City residents could get grants for:

- Energy-efficient light bulbs and showerheads.
- Attic insulation.
- Energy Star appliances.
- HVAC replacement.
- Other home improvements.

For more info, contact Niambi Powell at npowell@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8319.



LET'S WALK ABOUT IT ... Maryland celebrates Walktober with a series of webinars, held 10:30 a.m.-noon each Thursday in October. The first, on Oct. 7, looks at national efforts to increase walkability, the evolution of pedestrian infrastructure and the challenges walkability efforts face. Other "walkinars" will focus on walking as a core component of healthy living; pedestrian safety planning, equity and enforcement; and how communities promote safe walking. Learn more, including how to celebrate Walk Maryland Day, Wednesday, Oct. 6, at www.mdot.maryland.gov/walktober.

City Seeks Safer West Edmonston Drive for Pedestrians, with Edge Lines and Crosswalks

Ongoing improvements to West Edmonston Drive seek to improve pedestrian safety and address community concerns about speeding along the road.

In May and June, the city's Department of Public Works completed six new crosswalks along West Edmonston (two each at Carter Road and Ritchie Parkway and one each at Curtis and Hardy places), improving safety along the route for students walking to Bayard Rustin Elementary School, which opened in 2018. The city also completed two new crosswalks at Harrington Road and one new crosswalk at Maxim Lane.

The improvements follow a meeting of residents and city staff in April and a study of traffic volume and speed in March. The crosswalks at Harrington Road and Maxim Lane were in response to residents' requests during the meeting.

Other requests are being addressed by improvements that began in September. They include:

- White edge lines along West Edmonston to separate parking lanes from travel lanes.
- A new 25 mph speed limit sign along westbound West

Edmonston near Carter Road and the relocation of an existing eastbound sign to a location closer to Carter.

- Intersection improvements and three new crosswalks and Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant ramps at the intersection of West Edmonston and Cabin John Parkway.

Staff will assess the impact of these improvements a few months after installation.

Public works staff and city police recently discussed residents' request for speed cameras along West Edmonston. Police have conducted speed enforcement using mobile cameras, and while the number of recorded citations has been very low, city police committed to deploying the speed vans again periodically. Public works staff will contact Ride On and Montgomery County Public Schools to voice residents' concerns about Ride On and school buses speeding along West Edmonston Drive near Carter Road. Staff did not recommend new stop signs on West Edmonston due to low traffic on Carter.

For more information, email transportationinquiry@rockvillemd.gov. ❖

City Boosts Bike and Pedestrian Safety with Maryland Avenue Bike Lanes

The city began construction in September to install bicycle lanes in both directions on Maryland Avenue between South Washington Street and Great Falls Road.

The lanes will improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians, including students walking to Julius West Middle School and Richard Montgomery High School.

City staff discussed a consultant's plans for the project at a virtual public meeting in June and as part of the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting in July. Based on feedback from those meetings, staff recommended the following improvements for Maryland Avenue:

- Eliminating one of the two

eastbound travel lanes at Great Falls Road to install the two bike lanes.

- Resuming the two eastbound travel lanes just after the crosswalk east of the Maryland Avenue/South Washington Street intersection near City Hall, which will improve pedestrian safety at the crosswalk.
- Reducing the westbound speed limit to 30 mph west of West Argyle Street.
- Installing new truck restriction signs. City police will consider adding speed cameras to better enforce speed and truck restrictions.
- Painting a 10-inch pavement lane marking, instead of a regular 5-inch marking, to separate the bike

continued on pg. 8...

REDI Reports Progress Despite Pandemic Challenges for Rockville Businesses

Resilience and ingenuity marked Fiscal Year 2021 for Rockville businesses as the pandemic continued into a second year, Rockville Economic Development, Inc. reports in its annual report for FY 2021, which ended June 30.

"With a growing team and added enthusiasm, REDI is more than capable of facing new challenges and entering into the next phase of our mission in growing and promoting the City of Rockville as a prominent place to do business and live," states the report by the nonprofit charged with helping businesses launch, locate and expand in Rockville.

REDI's Strategic Initiatives and Work Plan for FY 2021 provided a roadmap through the year's challenges. It focused on business retention, expansion and attraction; city projects; small business assistance; and workforce alignment. FY21 highlights in those areas included:

The creation of the **Rock East District** to encourage local tourism and raise awareness of things to do in Rockville. The district includes parks, trails and more than 60 maker-and-trader businesses along East Gude Drive.

Assisting with permit services and consulting for the second phase of **Duball LLC's project** that will add 400 apartments to Rockville Town Center.

Working with developers and city staff to reposition the 31-acre property on **Choke Cherry Road as a new biotech**

campus that will attract life science businesses.

Securing **the relocation of Autonomous Therapeutics, Inc.'s corporate headquarters** from New York to Rockville, bringing 65 biotech jobs to the city by 2023.

Providing input on the city's master plan update, particularly related to a new Economic Development Element, through adoption of the **Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan** on Aug. 2. As part of the update process, REDI also commissioned a **study of the impact of changing land use categories on Research Boulevard**.

With assistance from the Maryland Women's Business Center, REDI's signature program, **Maryland entrepreneurs raised \$6.5 million** in capital infusion (an increase of 182% over FY 2020), \$494 million in equity capital and \$5.1 million in business loans.

Organizing and hosting, with support from Montgomery College, **workforce development roundtable discussions** on cybersecurity, workplace re-entry, mental health, creating community, and workforce education and other employer needs.

REDI's board is scheduled to present the report to the Mayor and Council on Monday, Oct. 18. Find more information when the agenda is posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Learn more about REDI at rockvilleredi.org. ❖

Fall Lawn Care: A How-To for Healthy Lawns, Hold the Pesticide

This fall is a particularly good time to go organic with your lawn care.

The Mayor and Council on April 26 voted unanimously to allow Montgomery County's pesticide law to apply in the city, effective Jan. 1. The law restricts the use of certain pesticides on private lawns, playgrounds, mulched recreation areas and child-care facilities, prohibiting most synthetic pesticides.

Organic lawn care is healthier for children, pets and the environment. And it doesn't mean your lawn has

to be any less healthy or green. Here are some simple things to do to make a successful switch to an organic lawn:

Take a soil test. Tests cost \$10-18 and will help you plan for what your lawn needs for good soil health.

Feed your soil (not with fertilizers). Core aerate the lawn if the soil is compacted, and feed the soil with compost, earthworm castings, compost tea or other natural materials to boost soil microorganisms.

Mow smart. Set your *continued on pg. 7...*

Nominate a Neighbor for a Human Rights Award

Winners to be Honored at the 50th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

The city's Human Rights Commission is accepting nominations for two awards to be presented at Rockville's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Monday, Jan. 17.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award will be presented to a student at a Rockville high school who has worked to fulfill King's dream in either their school or the community.

The F. Michael Taff Award will be presented to an individual, organization or business that has helped to improve the lives of people with disabilities, such as through efforts to improve accessibility or raise public awareness. It is named in honor of the late F. Michael Taff, a dedicated human rights activist and former chair of the Human Rights Commission.

Find and submit nomination forms at www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk. The submission deadline is Monday, Nov. 15.

Explore Rockville's African American Heritage with a Self-Guided Tour and Scavenger Hunt

Peerless Rockville's Explore Rockville African American Heritage Tour and Scavenger Hunt will open eyes to the rich history of African American life in Rockville.

The tour and scavenger hunt are a self-guided, outdoor exploration of over 10 key historical sites in Rockville. Visit tour sites from Thursday, Oct. 14-Sunday, Oct. 17.

The tour stops are a surprise and will allow participants to explore African American historic sites, stories and art across the city, including places they've never been and pass by all the time unaware.

Tickets are \$20 and are available with registration at peerlessrockville.org. Facemasks will be required on the tour.

The day before the event every registered household will receive a link to a printable program with scavenger hunt instructions and a write-up for each stop.

Participants will earn a commemorative pin (limit two per household) for completing the tour by tagging Peerless Rockville on social media, writing in the website guestbook or emailing their scavenger hunt results by Monday, Oct. 18.

Sponsored by M&T Bank, the tour is in memory of Sharyn R. Duffin (1947-2021), a local historian and tireless researcher and advocate for sharing Rockville's underrepresented history. Peerless Rockville is grateful for her dedication and invaluable work and research on Rockville's Black history.

10K/5K Registering Runners Now!

The 46th annual Rockville 10K/5K is registering runners until Nov. 3. The oldest continuing foot race in Montgomery County — which includes a 1-mile fun run for kids — will take place the morning of Sunday, Nov. 7.

The kids 1-mile fun run begins at 8:10 a.m. The 10K starts at 8:30 a.m. and the 5K at 8:45 a.m. Runners should arrive before 8 a.m., at which time streets leading to the race will be closed to ensure a prompt start.

Registration costs \$35 online or by mail-in through Friday, Nov. 5, and \$45 for in-person or online registration after that.

The course travels along Redland Boulevard (west of Grand Champion Drive), Gaither Road and Piccard and West Gude drives. For more information, a course map and to register, visit www.rockville10k5k.com.



PARK FOR FREE WHILE METRO REPAIRS CANOPIES ... Parking is free at Metro's Shady Grove and Rockville stations while the two stations are closed for canopy reconstruction and repairs. Free shuttle buses are being provided during the closures, which will continue through Saturday, Dec. 4. The buses connect the Shady Grove, Rockville, and Twinbrook stations. Learn more at www.wmata.com/about/news/Metro-offers-free-parking-at-two-Red-Line-stations-during-closure-beginning-Saturday.cfm.

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery to Display Fairweather Artists

Works by the Fairweather Artists will be on display at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery from Friday, Oct. 1 to Sunday, Oct. 24.

The Fairweather Artists include Ellen Broadman, Sarah Clayton Davis, Karen Kuell Epstein, Susan Sinclair Galego, Jennifer Howard, Lee Ann Howdershell, Ingrid Matuszewski, Lisa Sieg, Patrick Sieg and Stacy Yochum.

Meet the artists 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 24 at the gallery.

Face coverings are mandatory for all visitors to Rockville facilities, as the city continues its efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. The requirement applies to all staff and visitors aged 2 and older, whatever their vaccination status.

For information, call 240-314-8681 or 240-314-8660. For recorded directions, call 240-314-5004.

The ADA accessible gallery, on the second floor of Glenview Mansion at 603 Edmonston Drive, is open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed on official city holidays.

Arts Commission to Hold Listening Session on COVID-19 Impact

The City of Rockville's Cultural Arts Commission wants to know how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the city's arts communities and if it can help.

The commission will hold a virtual listening session from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13.

The commission wishes to hear from groups that provide arts and cultural services to Rockville residents, for example, visual or performing arts nonprofits, arts educators, artist co-ops, music studios, dance studios and international groups.

To register, visit bit.ly/CACrkv21. For more information, email rockvillecac@gmail.com.

Learn more about the Cultural Arts Commission at www.rockvillemd.gov/104/Cultural-Arts-Commission.



Nature Center to Celebrate Halloween with Mini-Creeps

Croydon Creek Nature Center will hold a scaled-back version of its annual Croydon Creep event.

Two Mini-Creeps will be held 10-11 a.m. and 11 a.m.-noon, Friday, Oct. 15 for kids aged 2-6. There is a limit of one adult per child. The cost is \$12 for residents, \$14 for nonresidents.

Come in costume and enjoy a puppet show, snacks, crafts and fun activities.

Spaces are limited, so registration in advance is re-

quired. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/registration, and register with course #20121 for the 10-11 a.m. slot, and #20122 for 11 a.m.-noon.

The event will be held outside and canceled if there's inclement weather (and refunds will be issued). Even though the event is outside, attendees are encouraged to wear face coverings, even if vaccinated.

Located at 852 Avery Rd., the nature center activities can be followed at www.facebook.com/croydoncreek. 🍁

Health and Wellness, Coming Up at the Senior Center

Stay home and stay healthy with free online seminars from the Rockville Senior Center in October.

Register with the course number online at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. Learn more about 60-plus programs, courses, activities and services at www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter or by calling 240-314-8800. Sessions are free, virtual, and run from 1-2 p.m., except where noted.

Resiliency After COVID

Share what you've learned and experienced during this time that helped you move forward, be stronger and more present, and create a better, healthier future. Presented by Betty Figlure, Rockville Senior Center's wellness coordinator. Course #20139. Tuesday, Oct. 5.

Know Your Transportation Options

An overview of transportation options in Montgomery County from Connect-A-Ride. Learn about public and private programs, volunteer organizations, subsidized programs, and programs for wheelchair users. Course #20131. Wednesday, Oct. 6.

Understanding Physical Therapy Medical Benefits

Join CAM Physical Therapy and Wellness Services' billing director

Janesa Paver and owner, Dr. Carlos Martinez, to discuss Medicare's yearly cap co-insurance and deductible for physical therapy, so that you know when and why to schedule your PT before your cap is met. Course #20129. Wednesday, Oct. 13.

Your Heart, Your Life Series. Session 1: Are You At Risk for Heart Disease?

Learn about how the heart works, its importance and structure, heart-disease risk factors and prevention. Presented by Adventist HealthCare. Course #20136. Tuesday, Oct. 19.

Take a Deep Breath to Health

Renee Davenport, a respiratory therapist from Suburban Hospital, will discuss the signs, symptoms and practical ways to manage medications for various lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Course #20612. Thursday, Oct. 28.

In-Person Flu Shot Clinic

10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12. Carnation Room, Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Senior flu shots will be charged to Medicare insurance. Bring insurance cards. Register so an accurate vaccine count is available. Indicate regular if preferred to high dose. Course #20128. 🍁

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD LITERARY FESTIVAL Featuring John Edgar Wideman

Prolific award-winning author John Edgar Wideman will spend time virtually with attendees of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival, on Saturday, Oct. 30.

As well as receiving the 2021 F. Scott Fitzgerald Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature, Wideman will take part in some of the day's online events.

From 10:45-11 a.m., Gary Berg-Cross, president of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc., will deliver his welcome and opening remarks.

From 11 a.m.-noon, Michael Dirda, a Pulitzer Prize-winning critic for "The Washington Post," will deliver a keynote address, "Weekly Deadlines: A Personal History of The Washington Post Book World."

Wideman will con-

duct a reading during the awards ceremony, which will be held from 1:15-2:10 p.m. He will then engage

in "A Conversation About the Art of Fiction," with Walton Muyumba, from 2:10-2:50 p.m.

The literary conference's award has been presented to some of America's most distinguished writers, including Richard Russo, Annie Proulx, Norman Mailer, Pat Conroy, John Updike, Joyce Carol Oates and Amy Tan.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival was established in 1996 to celebrate the centenary of F. Scott Fitzgerald's birth, and the city where Fitzgerald, his wife and daughter are buried — the festival is co-sponsored by the City of Rockville and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc.

For details, visit www.fscottfestival.org. 🍁



John Edgar Wideman

Head Out on the Town for This Month's Performances at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre

Travel to New York, Paris and Vienna, revisit your favorite movie music or enjoy old and new classical tunes in October, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

"From Paris to Vienna," presented by Victorian Lyric Opera Company. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 8 and 9. 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 10. Tickets: \$28; \$26, seniors; \$24, students. An evening of music from 19th-century Europe's most popular operettas.

"On the Town," presented by Rockville Musical Theatre. 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 29 and 30, and Nov. 5 and 6. 2 p.m. Sundays, Oct. 31 and Nov. 7. Tickets: \$26; \$23, seniors 62 and older and students. An energetic wartime musical about three sailors on a 24-hour leave in New York City, featuring thrilling music by Leonard Bernstein, with lyrics and book by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. The show's celebrated score includes a number of musical theater standards such as "New York, New York."

"Brass and Voices at the

Movies," presented by the Rockville Brass Band. 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9. Tickets: \$10; \$8, seniors; \$5, students. Music from favorite movies and film-music composers, including "How to Train Your Dragon," "Coco," and more. Features local vocalist and former U.S. Army Chorus member Bob McDonald.

"Old and New," presented by the Rockville Concert Band. 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17. No tickets required, but a \$5 donation is suggested. Under the direction of Juan Gallastegui, the concert band will play classical tunes.

Face coverings are mandatory for all visitors to Rockville facilities, as the city continues its efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. The requirement applies to all staff and visitors aged 2 and older, whatever their vaccination status.

The theater is located at 603 Edmonston Drive. Buy tickets at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre, by calling 240-314-8690, or in person at the box office. 🍁

Practice good petiquette in our parks!

Keep your pet on a leash at all times. **If your pet makes a mess, clean it up!**

City of Rockville

Know anyone 60+ who needs our help?

We're here as a helping hand for your older neighbors, friends or relatives.

- ✓ Food & Financial Assistance
- ✓ Counseling & Outreach
- ✓ Support
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Connecting with Peers
- ✓ Grocery Shopping

CONNECT THEM WITH US!

- ✓ Home Maintenance
- ✓ Health, Wellness, Technology & Education
- ✓ Medical Equipment Loans



Call 240-314-8800.
Email SeniorCenter@rockvillemd.gov.
Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/397/Services.



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel, (youtube.com/cityofrockville): Revisit Rockville Goes Purple's month of events to highlight the impact of opioids on the community, including a discussion of HBO's documentary "The Crime of the Century" with director Alex Gibney.

October CALENDAR

FACILITIES LEGEND:

- CC** Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
- GM** Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
- FSF** F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.
- LP** Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.

- CH** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
- SR** Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.
- SFC** Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
- TF** Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
- TC** Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.

- V** Virtual Program/Offering
- F** Facebook Live Event



1,8,15,22,29 **POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: MANAGING STRESS DURING THE PANDEMIC** An ongoing support and educational group to help cope. Learn coping skills from facilitator and each other. Join virtually or by phone. Meets every Friday. Free. 11 a.m.-noon. **SR**

1-24 **GLENVIEW MANSION ART GALLERY EXHIBITION** See article on page 6. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and closed on official city holidays. **GM**

2 **FAMILIES OUTSIDE: BIRD WALK** Explore the habitats of the John Hayes Forest Preserve with naturalist-led outings to enjoy the wonders surrounding the nature center. Adults and children must be registered and accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather and learn how to use binoculars (provided by CCNC) to spy on our feathered forest inhabitants. Course #20118. 9-10 a.m. **CC**

2,9,16,23,30 **ROCKVILLE FARMERS MARKET** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Jury parking lot at East Jefferson (MD 28) and Monroe streets.

4,11,18,25 **MEMORY CAFÉ** Meets every Monday. New participants must contact representative Sheila Griffith at 240-844-3608 or sagriffith@alz.org prior to attending. Noon-1:30 p.m. **SR**

4,11,25 **MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETINGS** 7 p.m. See left-hand column on page 3. **CH**

5,19 **DECLUTTERING** Learn about getting rid of things no longer needed. Meets first and third Tuesday of each month. Course #19990 to register. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

5 **MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT SEMINAR** Open enrollment allows changes to Medicare coverage. Learn about options with the Montgomery County State Health Insurance Assistance Program. 1-3 p.m. **SR**

5 **RESILIENCY AFTER COVID** See article on page 6. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

6 **NATIONAL COFFEE WITH A COP DAY** See article on page 4. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Starbucks in the Falls Grove Village Center, 14941 Shady Grove Road.

6 **WALK MARYLAND DAY** See red box on page 4.

6 **KNOW YOUR TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS** A mobility specialist from Connect-A-Ride provides an overview of transportation options in Montgomery County. Learn about public and private programs, volunteer organizations, subsidized programs, and programs with wheelchair accessibility. Course #20131. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

6 **OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB: ACORNS** Form a nature exploration pod and spend the hour outdoors investigating and learning about nature with experienced naturalists. Dress for the weather and wear a mask. Meets every other week for four sessions. Course #20111. Ages 6-8. 4-5 p.m. **CC**

7,21 **POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: WOMEN LIVING ALONE** A support group where members support each other by listening, expressing concern, and offering tips, suggestions and advice. Call 240-314-8800 to register. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

8,9,10 **"FROM PARIS TO VIENNA," PRESENTED BY VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY** See article on page 6. **FSF**

9 **"BRASS AND VOICES AT THE MOVIES," PRESENTED BY THE ROCKVILLE BRASS BAND** See article on page 6. 3 p.m. **FSF**

12,26,28 **POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: BRAIN GAMES** Work your brain and compete with peers in various games and puzzles. Meets second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Course #19987 to register. Free. 10-11:30 a.m. **SR**

13 **CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION COVID-19 IMPACT LISTENING SESSION** See article on page 6. 7-9 p.m.

13 **UNDERSTANDING PHYSICAL THERAPY MEDICARE BENEFITS** See article on page 6. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

13 **VILLAGES 101** Learn the basics of the village concept in a lively discussion with Rockville Village facilitator, Trish Evans. Have your questions answered about starting a village in your neighborhood and get the necessary resources to support it. Course #20102 to register. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

14,28 **LIVING ALONE** An opportunity for men and women living alone to socialize. Meets second and fourth Thursday of each month. Course #19991 to register. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

15 **MINI-CREEPS AT CROYDON CREEK** See article on page 6. 10-11 a.m. and 11 a.m.-noon. **CC**

17 **FUNGI FORAY** Foray into our forest with a naturalist to search and identify different types of mushrooms. Age 18 and older. Course #20114. 2-3 p.m. **CC**

17 **"OLD AND NEW," PRESENTED BY THE ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND** See article on page 6. 3 p.m. **FSF**

18 **MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION** 7 p.m. See left-hand column on page 3. **CH**

20 **OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB: ACORNS** Form a nature exploration pod and spend the hour outdoors investigating and learning about nature with experienced naturalists. Dress for the weather and wear a mask. Meets every other week for four sessions. Course #20111. Ages 6-8. 4-5 p.m. **CC**

21 **NATURE NERDS TRIVIA CAMPFIRE** Partner and compete against other teams to test your nature knowledge while enjoying s'mores around the campfire. Course #20115. Ages 18 and older. 7-8 p.m. **CC**

23 **LITTLE EXPLORERS** Go on hiking adventures with our naturalists, play games and discover the fun that can be had outdoors. Please note that the program at 11 a.m. is a repeat of the program that begins at 9:30 a.m. Ages 2-5. 9:30-10:30 a.m., Course #20107. 11 a.m.-noon, Course #20108. **CC**

23 **NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY** See article on page 8. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rockville City Police Station, 2 W. Montgomery Ave.

24 **ROCKVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** An antique fire truck parade through Rockville Town Center and a fire muster in the parking lot of the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Dr. Visit www.rvfd.org/muster. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

28 **TAKE A DEEP BREATH TO HEALTH** See article on page 6. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

29,30,31 **"ON THE TOWN," PRESENTED BY ROCKVILLE MUSICAL THEATRE** See article on page 6. **FSF**

30 **F. SCOTT FITZGERALD LITERARY CONFERENCE** **V** See article on page 6.

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX

Organic Lawn Care

continued from pg. 5...

mower blade to cut higher than 4 inches and sharpen your blades after every 12 hours of use. Leaving the lawn longer is healthier for the grass, helps to reduce weeds and does not mean you'll cut the grass any more often. Rather than bagging lawn clippings, just leave them to fertilize the lawn.

Use your hands, not herbicides. Pull a few weeds a day, or for an hour or two of healthy exercise each week. Leave some clover to help provide nitrogen to the soil, and tolerate a few dandelions, violets or other flowering plants that are good for pollinators and wildlife. Avoid quick or frequent watering sessions, which encourages weeds to grow. Water deeply, and infrequently, to promote healthy grass root growth.

Overseed and fight weeds. The denser your grass, the harder it is for weeds to become established. Check with a local

landscape supplier or company that mixes certified seed blends for our region to get the best grass for your lawn. Fall is best for broad overseeding, but you can repair bare or thin patches of lawn in spring.

For tips and additional information about organic lawn care, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns. **+**



Farmers Market

continued from pg. 2...

program removes economic barriers for food-insecure shoppers, by increasing access to fresh produce and increasing purchasing power.

The program aims to fight hunger while investing directly in farmers, strengthening the local food system. Customers can stop by the market tent, located at the market entrance, for more information.

The market is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays through Nov. 20, in the jury parking lot at East Jefferson (MD 28) and Monroe streets in Rockville Town Center. It gives shoppers their pick of farm-fresh produce and more from regional growers/producers, transforming itself weekly as fruits and vegetables become available throughout the season. Market rules and regulations and a preordering program provide for quicker, safer shopping.



Fall offerings include apples, cider, gourds, potatoes and pumpkins. The market also features plants and flowers, herbs, baked goods, local wine and spirits, knife sharpening, meat and coffee.

Learn more about the Eat Fresh Rockville and Maryland Market Money program and find a list of participating vendors and approximate harvest dates for select fruits and vegetables at www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers, or call 240-314-8620 for more information. For more updates, follow the market on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RockvilleFarmersMarket. **+**

Take-Back Day Offers a Way to Get Rid of Unwanted Medication

Rockville Police Offer Drive-Up and Drop-Off Collection

The Rockville City Police Department offers a safe, free and anonymous way to dispose of unwanted prescription drugs during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 23.

In cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration, city police will accept leftover — including expired — prescription drugs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Rockville City Police Station parking lot at 2 W. Montgomery Ave. To make it quick and convenient, officers will be outside with easy drive-up and drop-off access, so there is no need to get out of your vehicle.

Illicit drugs, liquids, needles, sharps or syringes cannot be accepted, only pills or patches. All returned medications will be destroyed by the DEA.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a convenient and responsible means of disposal, keeping prescription drugs from potentially polluting our drinking water while educating the public about the potential for abuse or theft of these medications.

Learn more about National Prescription Drug Take Back Day at takebackday.dea.gov. For more information about the city's take-back, contact Cpl. Derrick Tibbs at dtibbs@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8956.

Join the Team for Clean Streams

City stream cleanups offer safe ways to serve your city while social distancing during the pandemic.

Help remove litter from Rockville streams and celebrate Montgomery County Community Service Month by volunteering for a stream cleanup this month. City-sponsored cleanups follow safety guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID-19. Student Service Learning credit hours are available. Registration is required.

Want to go at your own pace? Adopt a local stream and host your own cleanups.

For a list of upcoming stream cleanups and to register, or to apply to adopt a stream, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/636/Adopt-a-Stream.

Find other ways to give of your time and talents at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer. For opportunities from around the county, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter.

Maryland Avenue Bike Lanes

continued from pg. 5...

lane from the vehicular travel lane.

The bike lanes were recommended in 2017 as part of the Rockville's Bikeway Master and, at the request of the West End Civic Association, were included in the city's Capital Improvements Program budget for Fiscal Year 2022, which began July 1. With support from the city manager, \$60,000 was added to the CIP for asphalt repair and replacement to build the project in FY 2022.

For more information, email transportationinquiry@rockvillemd.gov. ❖

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY NEWS!
www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8102.

HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY?



Register to vote: nationalvoterregistrationday.org/register

Clerk's Office, Board of Elections Take Part in Voter Registration Outreach

The City of Rockville joined jurisdictions across the country, Tuesday, Sept. 28, in support of National Voter Registration Day.

The Mayor and Council in September proclaimed Sept. 28 as National Voter Registration Day in Rockville in support of encouraging registering to vote, and reviewing and updating voter registration information to allow voters to be able to "exercise their most basic American right — the right to vote."

Members of Rockville's City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office and the Board of Supervisors of Elections were at the Rockville Memorial Library to conduct an Outreach Voter Registration Day, encouraging potential voters to drop by and learn about

voter registration options.

Hundreds of local, state, and national organizations help to coordinate nationwide events on the day to bring awareness to elections, ballot initiatives, voter registration and voter registration updates.

In 2019, the City of Rockville held its 66th election and the first vote-by-mail election in Maryland history. A total of 12,287 ballots were cast, versus 6,468 cast in 2015, an increase of 89.96%. Voter turnout increased from 15.9% in 2015 to 27.7% in 2019.

The City of Rockville election is held every four years, with the next taking place in 2023.

For more information, visit elections.maryland.gov/voter-registration/index.html. ❖

Maintenance to Close Part of Town Square Park

An area of Rockville Town Square has been blocked off to allow maintenance work to be performed on the public park's sand filter — a facility beneath the public space that treats and cleans stormwater runoff.

Filter cleaning work will be conducted from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct. 4-15.

Construction equipment will access the fenced-off site from Gibbs Street and Maryland Avenue. The outside dining streetery on that side of Gibbs will be temporarily closed during maintenance.

Pedestrians will still be able to traverse the square between Gibbs and Maryland.

The underground stormwater management facility under the square receives runoff, through a piping system, from almost 10 acres of impervious surfaces surrounding the site, including from pavement, parking lots and buildings that make up Town Square and a little beyond. The cleaning will remove accumulated sediment and debris.

Following treatment, the clean water discharges through pipes into Maryvale Park and Rock Creek. ❖

CHANGED YOUR NAME RECENTLY?



Register to vote: nationalvoterregistrationday.org/register

Meet a Rockville Employee: Asmara G. Habte

Asmara G. Habte serves as the director of the recently formed Department of Housing and Community Development for the City of Rockville. We asked her a few questions about her role to introduce her to the Rockville community.

Tell us a little about your role with DHCD.

As director, I oversee 14 employees and 12 program areas that seek to preserve and produce housing opportunities and deliver supportive services for Rockville residents.

What did you do before that?

I was hired in 2016 as the city's chief of housing programs, and held the position until the creation of DHCD in

2020, when I was asked by City Manager Rob DiSpirito to serve as its director.

Since 2016, I've led implementation of the Rockville Mayor and Council's affordable housing policy initiatives and priorities, and delivered resident and community services programming.

With a housing and community development career that spans over 20 years, my experience includes affordable housing development and finance, program design, resident services, public policy, and organizational management.

Prior to coming to

Rockville, I served for nine years as a development project manager and consultant with the District of Columbia Housing Authority, where I managed nearly \$200 million in federal, local and private funds that contributed to the production of over 800 mixed-finance and mixed-income housing units.

What else can you tell us about yourself?

I recently served as co-chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Housing Directors Advisory Committee. I am representing the City of Rockville as a commissioner on

the Interagency Commission on Homelessness, a commission that brings together local nonprofit housing and social services providers, municipalities and county agencies to discuss and advance policy initiatives, and exchange program ideas and best practices. I also represent the city on the Montgomery County Fair Housing Committee as a board member.

I hold a bachelor's degree in urban affairs and political science and a master's in urban and regional planning. I live in Montgomery County.

Learn more about the services provided by the DHCD at www.rockvillemd.gov/369/Community-Assistance. ❖



Asmara G. Habte



Get Into It

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BACK IN THE DAY ... Longtime Rockville and District 17 representative, state Sen. Jennie Forehand, bid a farewell to public service, an article in the October 2014 "Rockville Reports" reported. Her final session of the Maryland General Assembly had been April's. Forehand had been a resident of Woodley Gardens since 1962.